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BOOK REVIEWS.

All book reviews are by the editor in chief unless otherwise expressly stated.

The Encyclopedia of United States Supreme Court Reports, being a Complete Encyclopedia of all the Case Law of the Federal Supreme Court up to and including Volume 206, U. S. Supreme Court Reports (Book 51, Lawyers' Edition). Under the editorial supervision of Thomas Johnson Michie. Volume 5. The Michie Company, Law Publishers. Charlottesville, Va. 1909. Price, \$6.

With the appearance of each volume of this encyclopedia one is at a loss to understand why in all the years of digests no one ever thought of making them in the shape in which this one appears. The substance of the case law, the pith and marrow of the decisions, is given in such shape that one does not have to wade through paragraph after paragraph of cases to find the conclusion of the Court upon a given question. The **Law** is given and then all the cases from the Supreme Court bearing upon it. One can find his law and cases to support it in half the time required to look up the cases under the old—and in many instances the new—way of preparing digests. The present volume digests "Covenant, The Action of," to "Exceptions and Objections," inclusive. It is needless to say that the work is well done; for the able staff of the Michie Company, under the supervision of Thomas Johnson Michie, have caught the "Digest habit" in the present form and each volume as it appears seems to have been taught something by its predecessors and evinces that nothing shall be lost to the future by the lessons of the past.

Select Essays in Anglo-American Legal History, by various authors. Compiled and edited by a committee of the Association of American Law Schools. In three volumes. Volume 111. Boston. Little, Brown, and Company. 1909. Price \$12 for the set.

With this volume the collection of essays which the learned editors have selected for the public is concluded. There has seldom been a work which has succeeded in being at one and the same time so valuable a contribution to the legal profession as well as to the literary world. The seventy-six essays which have been so admirably selected by the editing committee would, but for these volumes, have remained entombed in dust-covered tomes, only now and then to be inspected by the curious or some stray seeker for knowledge. As presented in the three handsome volumes they are resurrected bodies tingling with life, with interest and usefulness and must command, as they should command, a large number of readers. We could not give better advice to the young lawyer than to advise him to carefully peruse these volumes, digesting slowly the strong meat within them and laying a foundation for the history of his profession without

which he is a mere practitioner and not a lawyer; whilst to the older member of the profession we do not know a work as likely to furnish entertainment as well as knowledge.

The Fixed Law of Patents, as established by the Supreme Court of the United States and the Nine Circuit Courts of Appeals—by William Macomber, counsel in patent causes. Boston. Little, Brown, and Company. 1909. Price \$7.50.

“Questions of Patent Law,” as the author says in his preface, “which are both simple and settled, arise from time to time in general practice.” The author has endeavored, and we think with great success, to put the answers to those questions between the thumb and finger of the busy lawyer. This he has done in an orderly, clear and concise manner and he has prefaced the work with an original treatise on the fixed law of patents in which he has surveyed the law, so that the opinions which he quotes in the book itself have the benefit of an opinion frankly and fearlessly expressed. We are particularly struck with the author’s method of stating cases and wish that our courts and reporters would follow his methods. Instead of setting out the full and complete name—say, for instance, the *City of Knoxville v. The African Development, Mining & Transportation Company*, the author cites the case as “*Knoxville v. Africa*.”

To those interested or actively engaged in the practice of patent law we should think the book would prove simply invaluable.